

April 14, 2008

## **Student Learning Outcomes for the M.A. and M.S. Degrees in Interdisciplinary Studies**

### **Attitudes**

- Students participating in the Interdisciplinary Studies degree program will:
  - o Recognize the need to engage in life-long learning,
  - o Appreciate the synergy that different disciplines can bring to a field of study,
  - o Recognize that addressing questions from different perspectives can be interesting and rewarding,
  - o Understand that ethical conduct is a critical component of research, scholarship, and creative activities.

### **Skills**

- Students who undertake a research-based thesis will be able to:
  - o develop a testable hypothesis,
  - o locate, retrieve and utilize appropriate information
  - o read, understand, and critically review the primary literature
  - o utilize appropriate methodology to conduct a research-based study,
  - o analyze results using qualitative or quantitative techniques,
  - o compare their results to previous studies,
  - o explain the contribution of their study to the broader field of existing knowledge
  - o communicate the importance of their work in an oral presentation
  - o communicate the importance of their work in written format
  
- Students who undertake a project will be able to:
  - o develop a plan for the project or develop a plan for a scholarly or creative work,
  - o locate, retrieve and utilize appropriate information
  - o read, understand, and critically review the primary literature or previous creative works
  - o utilize appropriate methodologies to conduct a study or utilize appropriate skills to produce a creative work,
  - o analyze results using qualitative or quantitative techniques when appropriate,
  - o compare their results to previous studies when appropriate,
  - o explain the contribution of their work to the broader field of existing knowledge or to previously created works,
  - o communicate the originality of, as well as the independent thinking and rationale for their work, in written format
  
- Students who undertake a comprehensive exam will be able to:
  - o Integrate the knowledge of their disciplines of study,
  - o Demonstrate critical and independent thinking,
  - o Demonstrate organizational skills,
  - o Clearly communicate their ideas and knowledge in written format
  - o Critically analyze information appropriate to the disciplines

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## **Knowledge**

- Students will:
  - Understand the relationship between the various disciplines incorporated into their Study Plan,
  - Have an understanding of research methodology and research design, or creative activities appropriate to the interdisciplinary nature of their work,
  - Understand the theoretical framework of the disciplines incorporated into their Study Plan,
  - Have fundamental knowledge of their disciplines and specific knowledge of their particular area of study,
  - Demonstrate mastery of the subject matter on their Study Plan,
  - Understand the careers, professions, and/or future academic opportunities available to them upon completion of their studies,